



Federal Aviation Administration

National Part 139 Cert Alert

AdvisoryCautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**Advisory**Cautionary**Non-Directive**

Date: 2/29/2024 **24-03**

To: Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 139
Certificated Airport Operators

Subject: Airport Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Management

Point of Contact: Kelvin K. Ampofo, AAS-320, 202-267-6457
Email: kelvin.k.ampofo@faa.gov

1. Purpose.

The purpose of this CertAlert is to re-emphasize to airport operators the importance of having an effective FOD management program. It also reinforces CertAlert No. 22-03, *Self-Inspections and Foreign Object Debris (FOD)*, and highlights the updates to AC 150/5210-24, *Airport Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Management*.

2. Background.

Any FOD on an airport's air operations area can pose a significant threat to the safety of aircraft operations and personnel. FOD has the potential to cause increased maintenance and operating costs and, more significantly, damage to aircraft during critical phases of flight, which can lead to catastrophic loss of life and airframe. Therefore, the detection and subsequent removal of FOD on the movement areas, and associated safety areas, should continue to be a primary focus for airport operators.

FOD hazards can be reduced significantly through implementation of a FOD management program and the effective use of FOD detection and removal equipment. In developing and implementing a FOD management program, airport operators should consider the following requirements and guidance:

- a. 14 CFR Part 139, *Certification of Airports*, requires certificate holders to address the presence of FOD in movement areas, loading ramps, and parking areas used by air carriers. Specifically, §139.305(a)(4), Paved Areas, and §139.307(a)(5), Unpaved Areas, require debris, foreign objects, and other contaminants to be **promptly** removed. To ensure compliance with these requirements, §139.327, *Self-Inspection Program*, requires daily airfield inspections and special inspections after unusual conditions, such as construction, accidents, and meteorological events. Such self-inspections can significantly reduce the potential hazards associated with FOD.

- b. AC 150/5210-24 has been updated to provide additional guidance on the prevention, detection, removal, and evaluation of FOD as well as strategies and practices that can help reduce FOD. It contains a link for airport operators to voluntarily submit FOD data to the FAA's national database that will track FOD type, location, and source. The information collected will greatly benefit FAA and Industry efforts to formulate strategies and practices that can help decrease FOD incidents at airports. This database can be accessed at FOD.FAA.GOV.
- c. Safety performance monitoring is key to validating the effectiveness of an airport's FOD management program. To confirm an airport organization's safety objectives are being met, the FAA recommends a regular review and evaluation of an airport's FOD management program. Continuous efforts to improve FOD management may involve revisions to safety objectives, policies, procedures, and training programs to ensure that the FOD management program remains effective and relevant to the organization's operation.

3. Recommended Actions.

- a. Airport operators should review the current AC 150/5210-24, CertAlert No. 22-03 and consider incorporating additional training on FOD prevention, detection, and removal. Also, airport operators should consider developing new evaluation methods and procedures to increase awareness and ensure all personnel working on the airport understand their role in FOD prevention.
- b. To ensure the safety of personnel and aircraft operating on the airport operations area, the FAA strongly recommends airport operators review their current FOD management program to identify any potential safety gaps. This review should include coordination with tenant air carriers and fixed base operators to ensure their personnel are trained on FOD identification, removal, and reporting procedures.
- c. Airport operators that are required to develop and implement a Safety Management System (SMS) under §139.401 should include their review of FOD management program procedures in their SMS safety gap analysis or use an existing safety risk management and safety assurance process to review such procedures.

4. Questions.

Direct questions or comments about this CertAlert to your assigned Airport Certification and Safety Inspector.



Birkely Rhodes, Manager
Airport Safety and Operations Division, AAS-300

2/29/2024

Date